



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

24 JUNE 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Merced – Explosives and Other Evidence of Illegal Activity Found at Residence

(U) A discovery inside a Merced home led detectives to explosive devices and a suspect. Merced police and the bomb squad served a search warrant there and inside, they found improvised explosives and other evidence of illegal activity. Investigators have not released any other details on the discovery but do say there is no active threat to residents in the area. A 52-year-old suspect is now in custody in connection to the explosives.

SOURCE: 22 June 2021, [ABC30](#)

(U) Seal Beach – Man Accused in Bear Spray Attack Linked to Proud Boys Violence in Fresno

(U) A man arrested by Seal Beach police after a road rage incident in which authorities allege he fired bear spray into a car with a family inside is a convicted felon and was arrested earlier this year during a violent altercation involving the Proud Boys. Marcus Kelly, 43, was apprehended in Hemet on Sunday after Seal Beach police detectives identified him as the motorist involved in the 14 June attack on Pacific Coast Highway. Investigators believe the attack may be part of a pattern of incidents involving Kelly and have asked witnesses and victims to come forward.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [LA Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Del Rio Sector Sees More Than 900-Percent Increase in Train Apprehensions

(U) Uvalde – US Border Patrol agents assigned to Del Rio Sector's Uvalde Station have seen a 911-percent increase in subjects found hiding on trains, compared to the same time last year. Uvalde Station continues to see a troubling increase in migrants encountered during train check operations, said Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent. "They are found hiding in many dangerous storage areas to avoid detection, putting their lives at risk. With the increase in temperatures during the summer months, this mode of transportation could turn deadly."

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Oath Keeper Pleads Guilty in 6 January Attack on US Capitol

(U) Washington – A member of the Oath Keepers extremist group pleaded guilty Wednesday in the 6 January attack on the US Capitol and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in the massive investigation into the insurrection. It was also the first guilty plea in the major conspiracy case brought against members of the Oath Keepers. Graydon Young, who was accused alongside 15 other members and associates of the Oath Keepers of conspiring to block the congressional certification of Joe Biden's presidential victory, pleaded guilty to two counts: conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [AP](#)

(U) District of Columbia – DOD Linguist Sentenced for Leaking Information to Aid Foreign Government

(U) Washington – Mariam Taha Thompson, 62, was sentenced yesterday to 23-years in prison for delivering highly sensitive classified national defense information to aid a foreign government. As part of her 26 March guilty plea, Thompson admitted that she believed that the classified national defense information that she was passing to a Lebanese national would be provided to Lebanese Hezbollah, a designated foreign terrorist organization.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [US DOJ](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Illicit COVID-19 Drugs Bound for Mexico Seized by US Authorities

(U) Washington – Federal authorities have seized unauthorized versions of the COVID-19 treatment Remdesivir at US airports destined for distribution in Mexico. Counterfeit or generic versions of Remdesivir, an antiviral manufactured by Gilead Sciences Inc., are arriving in the US by plane from Bangladesh and India and being smuggled by individuals to Mexico for patients willing to pay top dollar for the drugs. In recent months, US Customs and Border Protection officers have captured more than 100 shipments that they referred to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents to continue the investigation.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [Wall Street Journal](#)

(U) Iowa – Man Charged with Making Pipe Bomb Found by Young Girl

(U) Johnston – An Iowa man has been charged with making and placing a pipe bomb that was recently found by a young girl in a Des Moines suburb, but investigators do not believe he's linked to a bomb that was left at a nearby polling place in March. On Friday, ATF agents arrested Chad Allen Williams, 46, after searching his home in Johnston. Around a workbench in his garage, they found materials used to construct the bomb found in the middle of an Ankeny residential road 9 June, including fireworks, a spool of fuse, a bottle of vehicle lubricant, zip ties, screws, nuts and metal wall anchors, according to charging documents.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [AP](#)

(U) Maryland – NSA Opens Doors to New Cybersecurity Collaboration Center

(U) Fort Meade – One of the most secretive US intelligence agencies has opened a new facility that it hopes, uncharacteristically, will welcome plenty of outside visitors. While most of the National Security Agency's (NSA) outposts are closed-off, highly restricted spaces, the agency's newly launched Cybersecurity Collaboration Center, located a few miles outside its main campus in Fort Meade, Maryland, is meant to serve as a gathering point for government and private sector cybersecurity experts to exchange information about hacking threats from adversaries in real-time.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [CBS](#)

(U) Virginia – Murder-Suicide Suspect of Killing Girlfriend, 2 Kids was Convicted MS-13 Gang Member

(U) Herndon – A man in Virginia suspected of murdering his girlfriend and her two children before jumping to his death was a convicted MS-13 gang member who had been living in the US illegally. Records show that Jose Iraheta Palacios, 37, nicknamed "Little Crazy," pleaded guilty in Fairfax County Circuit Court in 2015 to human trafficking, gang recruitment of a juvenile and three counts of gang participation and was sentenced to nine-years. That sentence was suspended by seven years, Iraheta Palacios served two years in state prison and was deported, though later made it back into the US. Iraheta Palacios was next encountered around 6 a.m. Saturday sitting on top of a parking garage in

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Reston Town Center in Herndon, VA, and threatening to jump. Iraheta told officers he killed his girlfriend, Claudia Menjivar, and her children after arguing over infidelity. Officers attempted to talk Iraheta Palacios off the ledge for nearly an hour before he jumped and died from the fall. Police then raced to Menjivar's apartment on Florida Avenue to find her and the children all had been killed.

SOURCE: 24 June 2021, [Fox News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Ethiopia – Air Strike Kills at Least 43 in Tigray Region

(U) Tigray – An air strike killed at least 43 people in the town of Togoga in Ethiopia's Tigray region on Tuesday, after residents said new fighting had flared in recent days north of the regional capital Mekelle. Ethiopia's military spokesman did not confirm or deny the incident. He said air strikes were a common military tactic and that government forces do not target civilians. The bomb hit a market at around 1 p.m. local time, according to a woman who said her husband and 2-year-old daughter had been injured.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Turkey – Turkish Security Forces Detain 34 Suspected ISIS Militants Across Country

(U) Istanbul – Turkish security forces detained at least 34 suspected Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) militants in Istanbul-based counterterrorism operations across Turkey, sources said early Wednesday. Simultaneous operations were carried out by teams of the Istanbul Police Department Counterterrorism Branch at 39 addresses in Aydin and Sivas provinces. Some of the suspects are foreign nationals. The suspects had been planning to bring spouses and relatives of ISIS militants held in refugee camps in Syria to Turkey, and they had also been providing necessities for those already brought to the country. Some of the suspects have been providing financial assistance to imprisoned militants and their families.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [Daily Sabah](#)

(U) Ukraine – Clop Ransomware Gang Doxes Two New Victims Days After Police Raids

(U) Kyiv – The notorious Clop ransomware operation appears to be active again, just days after Ukrainian police arrested six alleged members of the gang. Last week, a law enforcement operation conducted by the National Police of Ukraine along with officials from South Korea and the US saw the arrest of multiple suspects believed to be linked to the Clop ransomware gang. It's believed to be the first time a national law enforcement group carried out mass arrests involving a ransomware group. While the Clop operation fell silent following the arrests, the gang recently published a fresh batch of confidential data which it claims to have stolen from two new victims, a farm equipment retailer and an architect's office, on its dark web site.

SOURCE: 23 June 2021, [TechCrunch](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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